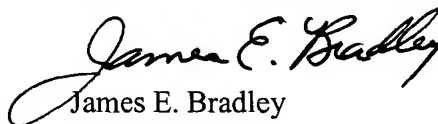


## REMARKS

This application is a continuation of S.N. 09/755,221, filed January 5, 2001. In the parent application, a restriction requirement was made by telephone, and Applicant had elected group I. These claims were rejected in an office action dated 11/20/02. Applicant filed a response 02/19/02 with a new set of claims 26-42 to replace the claims of group I. Applicant in good faith thought these claims were still within the scope of Group I, but the Examiner sent a response May 1, 2003 stating that the new claims were actually drawn to Group II, therefore the amendment was not in compliance. Applicant then filed an RCE on 05/23/03 in good faith, representing the claims 26-42. On 08/05/03, applicant received an office action stating that the RCE was an improper request because it was not after a final rejection.

Applicant subsequently telephoned Examiner John Guarriello, who consulted with a supervisor and stated that the improper request for an RCE would be treated as a good faith response. Applicant appreciates the courteous assistance of the Examiner and requests examination of the new claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: Sept 15, 2003  
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